Province of
British Columbia

Ministry of Attorney General

Annual Report

For the period April 1, 1982 to
March 31, 1983

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PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

MINISTRY OF ATTORNEY GENERAL ANNUAL REPORT

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The Honorable Robert Gordon Rogers,
Lieutenant Governor of the Province of British Columbia

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOR:

The annual report of the Ministry of Attorney General of the province for the period April 1, 1982, to March 31, 1983, is herewith respectfully submitted.

HONORABLE BRIAN R.D. SMITH, Q.C.
Attorney General

Office of the Attorney General
May, 1984

The Honorable Brian R.D. Smith, Q.C.

Attorney General

Sir: We have the honor to submit herewith the annual report of the Ministry of Attorney General for the period April 1, 1982, to March 31, 1983.

This is the second annual report to reflect a unified ministry of justice. Some of the branches, boards, and commissions reported here are required by statute to report through you annually to the legislature.

This is not a substitute for those reports. Those branches, boards, and commissions will, in the ordinary way, as is required, file an annual report.

E. N. (Ted) HUGHES, Q.C.
Deputy Attorney General

Ministry of Attorney General
Victoria, B.C.
May, 1984

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INTRODUCTION

During 1982/83, the ministry experienced significant increases in virtually all areas of demand. Of particular concern was a 24 per cent increase in numbers of persons held in provincial correctional institutions, as compared to the previous fiscal year. In the face of these increases, additional facilities were opened and existing facilities were modified to increase capacities.

In the Court Services and Criminal Justice branches, increased workloads and costs to the system necessitated the initiation of improved procedures for witness management, case scheduling, and trial coordination, as well as the continued automation of operational systems. Major computerization projects continued in the Office of the Public Trustee and the Land Titles Office.

The Motor Vehicle Task Force, established in 1978, submitted its report to the ministers concerned in November, 1980. The majority of the Task Force's 21 recommendations were accepted by government and resulted in the passage of the Motor Vehicle Amendment Act, 1982, and the Offence Amendment Act, 1982. Traffic safety continued to be the focus of ministry activity during 1982/83. As recommended by the task force, the government established an advisory committee, the "Continuing Committee for Traffic Safety," under the chairmanship of the assistant deputy minister, Police Services Branch. The committee has representation from the concerned ministries, police agencies, and the Insurance Corporation of B.C., and provides the capacity for coordinated planning and program activities in traffic safety.

During the fiscal year, the legislature enacted 13 bills reflecting the ministry's continuing commitment to a program of legislative reform. Highlights of these enactments include:

(a) amendments to the Family Relations Act affecting maintenance rights and enforcement and, in addition, adopting the Hague Convention on civil aspects of international child abduction;

b) amendments to the Limitation Act eliminating uncertainties with respect to time limits for civil actions arising out of the use of urea formaldehyde as an insulating material;

c) an amendment to the Criminal Injury Compensation Act permitting crime victims, or their dependents, to apply for and receive compensation without giving up their right to pursue an action for damages in the courts at the same time;

d) a new Court of Appeal Act revising court practices and procedures, which had been in place for more than 70 years; and

e) a new Land Title Act enabling the ministry to proceed with its five-year program of modernization and computerization in the province's land title system.

Despite growth in virtually all program areas, the ministry's expenditures during 1982/83 remained approximately constant as a proportion of total government expenditures. Its total budget of approximately $314 million represented about 4 per cent of total estimated provincial government expenditures for the year.

JUSTICE SERVICES

POLICE SERVICES BRANCH

The Police Services Branch consists of four divisions reporting directly to the assistant deputy minister: Police Services Policy Division, Coordinated Law Enforcement Unit, Community Policing Programs Division, and the Security Programs Division. Three police programs have an administrative relationship with the assistant deputy minister, Police Services: Royal Canadian Mounted Police, "E" Division; the British Columbia Police Commission; and the British Columbia Police Academy.

Responsibilities

The branch undertakes the following responsibilities:

(a) effective protection of life, property, and the reduction of crime;

(b) administration of the Criminal Code of Canada and the offence provisions of the provincial statutes; and

(c) superintendency of the general discharge of the police role of the more than 5,200 police and/or auxiliary police serving British Columbia.

Developments

1. Further changes were made to the structure of the Police Services Branch with the transfer of responsibility to the branch for Crime Prevention, the B.C. Police Academy, and the Security Programs Division.

2. Regional visits to operational police forces were conducted by the assistant deputy minister of Police Services in order to further the familiarization process which was commenced in 1981.

3. Attempts were made to put an end to burnings and bombings within the Doukhobor community in the Kootenay Region. To that end, the assistant deputy minister acted as chairman of the first two meetings of the Expanded Kootenay Committee on Intergroup Relations, and organized and spoke at a number of symposiums and seminars concerning such varied subjects as community policing, disaster planning, crisis management, police response to terrorist acts, and police training.

POLICE SERVICES POLICY DIVISION

Responsibilities

The following responsibilities are undertaken:

(a) provision of police advice on policing issues to the assistant deputy minister of Police Services;

(b) negotiation and administration of the province's contractual obligations in regard to the federal/provincial agreements on provincial/municipal policing, 15 provincial/municipal policing agreements, and a federal/provincial agreement on native Indian special constables;

(c) administration of the province's responsibilities for keep of provincial prisoners; and

(d) provincial emergency police planning.

Developments

1. Studies on the core city problem and financing of police costs in the province were completed.

2. Work on the review of police manpower and facility standards was continued.

3. Negotiations with the federal government and seven municipal governments for the use of the RCMP provincial force to police seven municipalities that became responsible for the policing costs in 1982 were completed.

4. Provincial policing priorities for 1983/84 and policy related to auxiliary policing were established and a review of the Police Act was continued.

COMMUNITY POLICING PROGRAMS DIVISION

The Community Policing Programs Division incorporates the following programs:

Traffic Safety
CounterAttack
Crime Prevention
Auxiliary Police

The primary goal of this division is to ensure that all aspects of the private sector, in concert with the police, assume

greater responsibility for the prevention of crime, traffic accidents, and offences. Research and public information sections provide support.

Traffic Safety

The Motor Vehicle Task Force, in its report to government, identified an important future task:

> "An examination of the most suitable mechanism by which the visible need for coordination of all highway safety and traffic education might be most effectively achieved."

This task was mandated by the formation of an inter-ministry/agency advisory committee, the "Continuing Committee for Traffic Safety." Under Chairman Robin Bourne, assistant deputy minister, Police Services Branch, the committee comprises senior officials from the ministries of Transportation and Highways, Health, and Attorney General, and the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, municipal police, and British Columbia Association of Chiefs of Police. The committee reports through the attorney general to the Minister of Transportation and Highways, minister of Health, and minister responsible for the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia. Its representative structure provides the capacity to act on traffic safety issues by coordinating resources for problem analysis, legislation and policy, law enforcement, community, and other program initiatives.

Drinking Driving CounterAttack

CounterAttack is jointly funded, planned, and operated by the ministry and the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia, with the objective of reducing alcohol-related deaths and injuries on the roads of the province. The program is structured to blend traffic law enforcement, public information, broad community involvement, education, legislation, policy reform, and research.

Developments

Community:

(1) The third traffic safety student leader conference was held, which was attended by 400 students, teachers, and police.

(2) The first annual adult community leaders traffic safety conference was held, which was attended by 350 people from most segments of the community.

(3) In-school education and student participation in CounterAttack and other traffic safety programs was extended throughout the province in grades kindergarten through 12.

(4) Labor/employer workplace programs were initiated.

Police Traffic Law Enforcement: Short and long term impaired driving enforcement strategies were developed and implemented, including blitzes and road check programs by the RCMP and the 12 municipal police forces. Coordination of enforcement was improved through initiation of two traffic law enforcement committees involving municipal police and RCMP on the Lower Mainland and in the Capital Region.

Research: Reports on a province-wide survey of night-time drivers and an analysis of alcohol-related and non-alcohol-related traffic crashes were published.

Public Information: CounterAttack produced and distributed printed and audio visual materials, liaised with media, student, and community groups, organized award programs, and produced CounterAttack's annual media campaign. An extensive airing of CounterAttack messages was made possible through the sponsorship of the B.C. Broadcasters Association.

Crime Prevention

Developments

1. The transfer of staff and responsibility for crime prevention coordination from the B.C. Police Commission to this division was completed.

2. In cooperation with the federal solicitor general's ministry, the program secured $1.4 million of federal grants for crime prevention projects in British Columbia.

3. Staff services and resource support were provided to the following:

   - provincial crime prevention practitioners committee;
   - B.C. Justice Institute;
   - Police Training Academy;
   - crime prevention;
   - provincial and regional workshops; and

- B.C. Crime Prevention Association.

4. A broad restructuring of ministry crime prevention policy and resource material, aimed at improving crime prevention, is being undertaken.

Auxiliary/Reserve Police Program

Developments

1. The transfer of administrative responsibility for the province's auxiliary/reserve police program from the Ministry of Environment, Provincial Emergency Program to the Ministry of Attorney General, Police Services Branch, was completed. Discussions between the attorney general and the commissioner of the RCMP resulted in the removal of a moratorium that had been placed on the RCMP provincial auxiliary police program by the office of the commissioner in 1981. Municipal reserve police programs remained active in the 10 participating municipalities throughout the period of the moratorium.

Objectives

Auxiliary and reserve police programs serve as a vital link with the communities in crime prevention programming. A revitalization of the province-wide RCMP auxiliary police program as a complement to provincial policing will take place.

COORDINATED LAW ENFORCEMENT UNIT (CLEU)

CLEU consists of a policy board and three sections: two Joint Forces Operations (JFO) and the Policy Analysis Section (PAS). The policy board, under the chairmanship of the deputy attorney general, is responsible for the policy direction of CLEU and presents issues and problems for the PAS to explore. A new member of the 10-man board represents the federal Department of Justice.

Joint Forces Operation (JFO)

The JFO unit, based in Vancouver, is directed by a joint management team comprising the deputy chief constable in charge of staff operations, Vancouver City Police; the assistant commissioner of RCMP in charge of operations for "E" Division; and the director of CLEU. It is their task to determine which investigations (targets) will be undertaken by JFO. The daily activities of JFO are handled by two inspectors, one seconded from the Vancouver City Police and the other from the RCMP.

A similar but somewhat smaller Vancouver Island JFO unit is located in Victoria. Target selection for this group is conducted by a management team comprised of senior municipal and RCMP officers.

Developments

Vancouver JFO

1. The involvement of a group of suspected extremists in bombings, arsons, thefts, and robberies nation-wide was investigated, resulting in the apprehension of five suspects.

2. Crimes as drug extortion and fraud were investigated, resulting in 104 arrests during the past year. The Vancouver JFO has charged 1,043 persons since 1974.

Victoria JFO

A cocaine importation ring and the Vancouver Island arm of a sophisticated Western Canadian bookmaking operation were uncovered. Twenty arrests brought the total since 1975 to 325.

Policy Analysis Section(PAS)

The PAS has four units: Administration, Research and Prevention, Strategic Intelligence, and Systems Research and Development. The section is staffed by civilians.

Responsibilities

PAS is responsible for:

(a) in house administration;

(b) testing and coordinating the product of strategic intelligence; and

(c) research and the publication or distribution of information to the public.

Developments

1. This section supplied analytical expertise for police investigations, participated in public awareness programs, liaised with police and regulatory agencies, and sponsored a colloquium on financial investigations.

2. A paper, entitled "The Coordinated Law Enforcement Unit -- A Canadian Strategy Against Organized Crime," was published in Police Studies, Vol. 5, No. 2, Summer, 1982, John Jay Centre for Criminology, New York City University.

3. The Battelle Human Affairs Research Center of the United States examined this section as part of a U.S. Department of Justice evaluation of strategies for controlling organized crime. Its final report stated that CLEU was an imaginative and effective strategy for the control of organized criminal activity.

4. This section is presently involved in the Federal/Provincial Study Group on Enterprise Crime, formed as a result of An Evaluation of the American Racketeer Influenced and Corrups Organizations Statute from a Canadian Prespective.

SECURITY PROGRAMS DIVISION

Responsibilities

This section undertakes the following:

(a) licensing and inspection of firearms businesses;

(b) the issuance of Firearms Acquisiton Certificates;

(c) general policy planning and administration of all aspects of firearms legislation set out in Part 11.1 of the Criminal Code;

(d) investigations of non-criminal nature;

(e) policy direction in respect to the Police Disaster Manual of British Columbia; and

(f) licensing and regulation of the private security industry, including security guards, private investigators, locksmiths, alarm installers, security consultants, and armored car companies.

Developments

1. Number of Firearms Acquisition Certificates processed totalled 19,314 and licences were granted to 591 firearm businesses. In addition, 88 businesses were licensed to sell only ammunition. There are 97,504 Firearms Acquisition Certificates retained in the office central filing system.

2. All licensed firearms businesses were inspected, with the exception of those located in remote areas which were

inspected by the RCMP. Security business licences under the Private Investigators and Security Agencies Act increased from 348 in 1981 to 469 in 1982. Frequently, security businesses are licensed for more than one category of employment, with the total in all categories being 644, up from 509 in the previous year. The division issued 3,257 security employee licences, an increase of 200 over the previous year.

3. Number automobile master key licences issued totalled 280, pursuant to Section 311 of the Criminal Code, on behalf of the attorney general.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE BRANCH

Responsibilities

This branch undertakes the following functions:

(a) operates Crown counsel services throughout the province for the prosecution of criminal cases, provincial statutes, and many municipal bylaws in trial and appellate courts of the province and in the Supreme Court of Canada;

(b) provides advice to government on matters of criminal law and enforcement;

(c) initiates, develops, and implements research and analysis of policy and procedures in matters relating to criminal law and enforcement;

(d) analyses legislation, both new and established;

(e) participates on committees and task forces in matters pertaining to criminal law and the criminal justice system; and

(f) provides administrative support necessarily incidental to the proceedings, including interprovincial transfer of criminal charges and probation orders, preparation of orders-in-council, and responses to inquiries from the public.

The assistant deputy attorney general, Criminal Justice, has within the Criminal Justice Branch the administrative responsibility for the Order-in-Council Review Board and the Film Classification Division.

Developments

1. An automated method of printing informations was developed as a result of recommendations from the final report of the Ministerial Case Management Evaluation Task Force (established June, 1980, to evaluate administrative procedures and programs and effect improvement in the management of the increased number of cases coming before the courts).

2. A quality control process, in which all police reports are examined by Crown counsel prior to the swearing of the information, was initiated. This has resulted in saving large sums of money by reducing the number of police hours at trials. Implementation of the report is continuing and witness management, document flow, case scheduling, and

information storage are all being impacted by the implementation of the recommendations.

Motor Vehicle Task Force

The Motor Vehicle Task Force, established in 1978, submitted a report to the ministers concerned in November, 1980, together with a draft motor vehicle act. The majority of the 21 recommendations dealt with sanctions and the procedures by which traffic violations are processed.

As a result of the government's acceptance of the task force's recommendations, the government proclaimed effective certain provisions of the Motor Vehicle Amendment Act, 1982, and the Offence Amendment Act, 1982, which included the granting of authority to the superintendent of motor vehicles to prohibit persons from driving and to issue short term drivers licences, a 24-hour prohibition from driving due to alcohol consumption, a three-year prohibition from driving for causing police pursuit, and the impoundment of a motor vehicle on the apprehension of a driver for driving while prohibited.

Legislation which is not yet proclaimed provides for such things as fines and jail sentences for high-point drivers, the offence of excessive speeding, and the uniform ticket information and voluntary penalty schedule for provincial statutes.

Comprehensive and Accelerated Review of Criminal Law

At the Uniformity Conference in 1979, British Columbia proposed the establishment of a task force to assume responsibility for restructuring and rewriting the Criminal Code of Canada. At the end of 1980, the federal cabinet authorized the comprehensive and accelerated review of criminal law and granted approval for the additional resources required. The review is to provide Parliament and the Canadian people with a modern Criminal Code. It is hoped that the new code will be clear and simple so that the law is understandable and its procedures consistent.

Work is continuing on Phase I, which involves the formulation of recommendations under the auspices of the Law Reform Commission of Canada. Phase I consultations have included the issues of search and seizure, corporate criminal liability, euthanasia, mischief (vandalism), investigative tests, issues in custodial interrogation, and homicide. Phase II involves formal government decision making with the federal government seeking the considered opinions of the provinces on matters relating to the administration of criminal law. At the Phase II level, considerations are being given to theft and fraud, contempt of court, the jury, sentencing, clemency, pretrial procedures, and

mental disorder.

Members of the Criminal Justice Branch are on various committees, including:

(a) the Provincial Young Offenders Act Committee, which continues to analyse the implications of the pending federal Young Offenders Act and is developing complimentary provincial legislation;

(b) the Victim Assistance Committee, which brings together programs that are presently operated under the auspicies of this and other ministries; and

(c) the Crime Prevention Committee, as required.

Charter of Rights and Freedoms

The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantees the rights and freedoms enumerated, subject only to such reasonable limits prescribed by law as can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society. The Charter applies to the Parliament and Government of Canada and the legislatures and governments of each province, and applies to enactments whether in force prior to or subsequent to the proclamation of the Charter. Section 33 of the Charter, however, permits Parliament or a legislature to expressly declare that an act or part thereof shall operate notwithstanding the guarantee of certain rights and freedoms in the Charter.

The Charter has had, and will continue to have, a significant impact upon the enactment and enforcement of federal and provincial laws. Members of the Criminal Justice Branch are continuing to analyse the implications of recent developments in the law, particularly as judgments are rendered by the higher courts.

FILM CLASSIFICATION DIVISION

Responsibilities

The Motion Picture Act of 1979 is the authority under which this branch operates. The division's director is responsible for:

(a) examining and classifying all pictures to be shown to the public;

(b) issuing licences to operate theatres and film exchanges; and

(c) inspecting theatres on an annual basis. The RCMP often are asked to perform these inspections on behalf of the director.

If a distributor or exhibitor is dissatisfied with a decision made by the director concerning the approval or classification of a film or the issuance, suspension, or cancellation of a licence, he has the right to appeal to a board established under the Motion Picture Act. The appeal board consists of three members appointed by the lieutenant governor-in-council.

Developments

1. Number of films viewed and classified in the period April, 1982, through to March, 1983 (755 in the 1981/82 fiscal year) totalled 1,081. Of these, two were banned from public exhibition and 63 had eliminations made in them as a condition of approval.

2. Increases in fees for inspection and licences were effected in January, 1982. As a result, the revenue for this fiscal period was $222,357 ($133,474 for the 1981/82 fiscal year).

CORRECTIONS BRANCH

The branch is administered through five regions: Vancouver Island, Vancouver, Fraser, Interior, and Northern. Facilities include six secure adult custodial institutions, two secure containment centres for delinquent youths, 13 open facilities for adults, two open camps for youths, nine community correctional centres for adults, and 86 probation and family services offices throughout the province. The commissioner of corrections reports to the attorney general for the management and operation of the Corrections Branch.

Corrections programs and services include adult institutions for remanded persons and those serving sentences of up to two years, juvenile containment centres, adult and juvenile probation services, family court counselling services, the Community Service Order Program, and various types of attendance programs.

Developments

1. The following trends were recorded:

   (a) record-high adult sentenced counts occurred province-wide. This trend, which appeared to be the result of record levels of unemployment and strengthened legislation to cope with the problem of alcohol-related motor vehicle offenders, led to a dramatic increase in correctional service demand. Institutional overcrowding was accommodated through the conversion of space normally used for recreation and storage and contracted services were purchased from private agenciesand individuals; and

   (b) the juvenile institutional count during the same time period showed some monthly variations, with the yearly total increasing only slightly and reaching a high in April, 1982.

2. Several elements of the branch Five-Year Facility Plan were implemented. The plan to update or replace correctional facilities and programs includes:

   (a) completed construction of the 150-bed male Vancouver Pretrial Services Centre scheduled for opening in August, 1983, and completed the first phase of updating the Vancouver Island Regional Correctional Centre; and

   (b) developed plans to replace Kamloops Regional Correctional Centre and phase out the Lower Mainland Regional Correctional Centre (Oakalla) by late 1986. These facilities are out of date and substandard, and

do not meet minimum correctional standards. The replacement of Oakalla includes the above-mentioned Vancouver Pretrial Services Centre, and the building of two 150-bed sentenced male institutions, a 105-bed female centre, and a 150-bed male remand facility in the Lower Mainland area.

3. The Nanaimo Community Correctional Centre, to house 25 sentenced inmates, was opened in February, 1983.

4. The Nanaimo Correctional Centre, a 90-bed facility for male sentenced offenders -- mainly from Vancouver Island -- was opened on the Brannen Lake site in March, 1983.

5. Probation officers continued to provide a wide range of services to courts and communities throughout the province, including:

   (a) the continued development and operation of community correctional programs involving branch-operated or contracted Community Service Order Programs -- a court ordered program requiring an individual to perform a prescribed number of hours of community service;

   (b) the Temporary Absence Program allowing individuals near the end of their sentence to involve themselves in a work project useful to the community; and

   (c) the expansion of the Bail Supervision Program, which allows eligible accused offenders to be supervised in the community rather than held within institutions until completion of their trial.

   Other programs included aiding in the development of alternative schools, shoplifting prevention, and classroom discussion groups on delinquency.

6. Work progressed in preparation for the implementation of the federal Young Offenders Act, enacted in July, 1982, and scheduled to be proclaimed law throughout Canada in April, 1984. The act, which will raise the age of a juvenile offender in British Columbia from under 17 to under 18 years on April 1, 1985, is anticipated to increase institutional bed space requirements in the province. The ministry Young Offenders Implementation Team, together with the Branch Planning Project Group, continues to work in developing complimentary provincial legislation and policy, caseload and cost projections, training programs for community and institutional staff, and examining information-system requirements in preparation for proclamation of the new legislation. In addition, financial agreements will be negotiated with the Government of Canada for funding of the prog-

rams and services entailed by new legislation.

7. Other branch initiatives included:

   (a) a review of the probation caseload system and implementation of accompanying staffing standards;

   (b) a reorganization of staff development with the signing of a contract with the Justice Institute to do the branch training for the fiscal year; and

   (c) the continued development of family court services throughout the province. This service assists separating families to negotiate terms of separation agreements or consent orders with regard to financial maintenance, custody of and access to children; aids in processing referrals to appropriate agencies for marital counselling and other services; provides short-term marriage and family counselling, and may provide administrative enforcement of court orders in matters of maintenance payments. The family caseload increased 15 per cent over 1981/82.

8. A study to develop a plan to improve inmate work programs and encourage programs which contribute to the self-sufficiency of correctional institutions was started.

9. Branch activities which highlighted cooperation with other ministries, including Forestry, Lands, Parks, and Housing, Human Resources, Health, Education, and Fisheries, continued to expand.

   An example of such cooperation is the continuation of the more than 20-year tradition of the B.C. Forest Service and the Corrections Branch working together on forest-related projects employing inmates. These projects benefit the province by providing inmates an opportunity to develop job skills while at the same time providing the community with finished products and key services through the inmates' paid industry. The Salmonid Enhancement Program -- a joint federal/provincial project -- provided meaningful work for inmates, including construction of fish tanks and fish fences. The program is designed to increase fish stocks in the local and provincial rivers.

10. The following new administrative initiatives were undertaken:

   (a) began production of a manual of operations for the Community Service Order programs that will be included in the Adult Probation Manual, when completed;

(b) began branch-wide audits of Community Service Units, and regular multi-phase annual inspections of institutions were scheduled and are to be carried out on a regular basis; and

(c) developed and implemented new standards and procedures for inmate disciplinary panels.

11. A health care policy reviewing health care delivery in the branch was developed complete with standards and a model for delivery.

12. The Provincial Case File Automated Tracking System was updated and improved through the Data Services Section. The system consists of a network of computer terminals within the branch which are used to access information on formal court orders and sentenced adults. The long range planned improvements for the system include adding to the file twice daily, and entering data from the regions rather than centrally.

13. Senior management were advised regarding correctional policies and their implementation, and the level of service delivery of branch programs in all operational areas was improved through policy advisory groups. The membership of each policy advisory group includes experienced branch personnel, a program analyst from the Program Analysis and Evaluation Section, and a regional director who is chairman of each group.

14. In keeping with the government fiscal restraint program, budget cuts reduced in size or delayed the implementation of several community and institutional programs requiring the rearrangement of several branch priorities and management services, such as:

(a) a pilot program in the Fraser Region, RESTORE/CARE, a program to avail the victims of crime. Implementation was delayed from May, 1982, to January, 1983. The program has been modified and reduced in scope and is to be evaluated for feasibility of retention and/or expansion over the next two years; and

(b) management initiatives and cost-saving program reductions, including branch regional re-organization by amalgamating South and North Fraser regions, thereby reducing the number of regions from six to five. This change affected district reorganization and, together with the elimination of other management and support services, created a 10 per cent reduction in management staff at all levels in the branch.

The Corrections Branch annually tables a separate comprehensive annual report in the legislature, as required by the Correction Act.

COURT SERVICES BRANCH

Responsibilities

Court Services provides administrative services to all of the courts in the province and particularly to the judiciary of the provincial, county, and Supreme Courts and to the Court of Appeal.

The assistant deputy minister of Court Services is responsible to the chief justice of the Court of Appeal, the chief justice of the Supreme and county courts, and the chief judge of the provincial court for matters of judicial administration. He is, at the same time, responsible to the attorney general for all other matters of administration connected to the courts, under the amended Provincial Court Act, 1980, the Supreme Court Act, 1976, and Court of Appeal Act, 1979. This method of administering the courts has evolved in British Columbia since 1975. Court Services is a regionalized administration.

Three distinct services are provided:

Court Administration provides a variety of services in the approximately 80 court locations throughout the province, including:

- answering enquiries from the public and all persons within the justice system;
- preparing and entering court files and preparing court lists;
- entering and controlling exhibits used as evidence in the courts;
- providing clerical staff for the courts;
- handling money ordered for payment to the court to cover fines, tickets, bail, family maintenance, and other trust items; and
- providing justices of the peace for release of accused persons on bail, issuance of summonses, search warrants, and warrants for arrest.

In most areas of the province, the registries are integrated to serve all levels of courts, including the B.C. Court of Appeal, which sits in Vancouver and Victoria.

Sheriff Services provides deputy sheriffs to all levels of courts. Although not police constables, they are peace

officers and have all the powers and responsibilities associated with that position. Their duties include:

- service of criminal and civil documents;
- court security;
- jury administration (Supreme and county court);
- county coroners court;
- escort of accused and convicted persons;
- seizure of goods or chattels;
- assistance to the superintendent of motor vehicles; and
- witness administration.

Reporting Services provide official court reporters and court recorders for taking and maintaining verbatim transcripts of all proceedings in provincial, county, and Supreme Courts in B.C., as well as coroners' courts. They are also responsible for recording pretrial civil processes and other official government proceedings where verbatim transcripts are required.

Caseload Activity

Provincial Court activity followed normal monthly fluctuations along an upward trend but without corresponding increases in resources, resulting in heavier burdens on Court Services. While some of the increases were only marginal, they were more than offset by sharp increases in other areas. For example, the number of new Criminal Code/federal statute cases rose only 1 per cent over the previous year, but the number of new provincial traffic cases rose 35 per cent. The total number of criminal cases completed was 3 per cent higher than the same period in the previous year.

Despite limited resources, however, efforts to reduce the volume of cases delayed over 180 days did result in 5 per cent fewer cases. Total number of cases delayed between 81 and 180 days were also down 5 per cent. These figures were reflected in a corresponding increase of 10 per cent in the volume of cases delayed one to 90 days.

Family and Juvenile Court volume of new cases was down 10 per cent from the previous year, due solely to a 21 per cent drop in the number of new juvenile delinquency cases. Family law cases rose 16 per cent.

Activity in small claim matters had been increasing at such a rate that, though there were 31 per cent fewer actions commenced than the same period the previous year, the total number of trials was 41 per cent higher. This has placed considerable burden on the registries without corresponding increases in resources.

Superior Court activity has increased dramatically, with new filings in bankruptcy doubling the previous year's, and new civil cases increasing more than one third. Supreme Court activity in 1982, compared to 1981, is as follows:

Court	Calendar Year 1982 against 1981 (%)
New Criminal Cases	Up 13
New Civil Cases	Up 37
Divorce	Down 4
Probate	No Change
Adoption	Up 6
Bankruptcy	Up 99

The volume of new cases will be reflected in the number of trials scheduled within the next two years.

Facilities

The major capital projects improvement program begun five years earlier in Court Services continued. Government restraint measures imposed in 1982 curtailed many activities for all branches of government, including Court Services. Nevertheless, updating court facilities throughout the province remained a priority.

The following facilities were completed during 1982:

Project	Cost (in year of completion)
Invermere - 1 courtroom	$ 669,000
Houston - 1 courtroom	739,000
Burns Lake - 1 courtroom	815,000
Castlegar - 1 courtroom	952,000
Kitimat - 1 courtroom	910,000 (estimate)

Projects under construction include:

Year for Expected Completion	Project		Anticipated Cost
1983	Ashcroft	1 courtroom 1 hearing room	$ 1,143,000
1983	Grand Forks - (Heritage Restoration)	1 courtroom	1,829,000
1983	Port Alberni	2 courtrooms 1 hearing room	3,564,000
1983	North Vancouver	4 courtrooms 1 hearing room	6,912,000
1984	Kamloops	12 courtrooms	28,278,000

Numerous minor projects were accomplished throughout the province in 1982, as well.

Developments

1. The Trial Coordination Program implemented in 1982 was further developed by Court Services and the provincial court judiciary. The program is designed to ensure the efficient use of court time by scheduling trials to accommodate the various users involved in the criminal trial process. The result has been a substantial reduction of police overtime costs, better convenience for civilian witnesses, and increased efficiency in overall court utilization in time and resources for all users, including judiciary, defense bar, Crown counsel, and Court Services staff.

2. The format for official court transcripts was revised so that all transcripts would be acceptable at all levels of court, including the Supreme Court of Canada.

3. A common format for trial transcripts in B.C. was produced. Traditionally, such forms have been in a different format than those from the B.C. Court of Appeal, which, in turn, were different from those required for the Supreme Court of Canada. The consequence has been that transcripts have had to be retyped for each level of court, at the expense of the litigant.

4. A formal Registrars' Training Program, at the Court Services Academy of the Justice Institute in Vancouver, was implemented to raise the technical proficiencies of registrars

and other senior registry staff. Specific attention has been given to the sophisticated quasi-judicial areas of taxation of costs, valuation of assets, and family law statutes.

5. An intensive, year-long management trainee program for court administration, which took several years to develop, was inaugurated in the Northern Region. By the success of its first incumbent (graduated 1983), the program promises to become a major resource to Court Services' management recruitment and development throughout the province.

Major resource projects completed in 1982 include:

(a) a system for notifying civil and police witnesses when they should appear in court, which will be implemented in 1983. The project was specifically designed to identify when policemen, who comprise the majority of court witnesses, are available for court appearance during their day shifts to eliminate large volumes of overtime;

(b) a feasibility study to determine whether a computerized traffic system should be implemented at Vancouver Traffic Court. The system would specifically identify the status of cases for easier access and improved service to the public (no scheduled date for implementation); and

(c) a Supreme and county court case-tracking system to produce management information on civil litigation (no scheduled date for implementation).

LEGAL SERVICES

LEGAL SERVICES TO GOVERNMENT BRANCH

The Legal Services to Government Branch comprises a group of specialized lawyers providing expertise in all usual areas of government and professional activity. Ad hoc counsel is used to augment staff counsel where appropriate, especially in the area of family law.

Responsibilities

The branch supplies legal services to 19 government ministries, on the historic common-law basis of a solicitor-client relationship, through five divisions: Civil Law; Civil Litigation; Constitutional and Administrative Law; Legislative Counsel; and Law Division: Public Trustee.

The administrative head of Legal Services to Government is also responsible for the Office of the Public Trustee and the hiring of private sector lawyers for legal services.

Developments

By controlling spending and exercising an increasing degree of supervision over family law spending, the need for special warrants in favor of Legal Services to Government has been eliminated.

CIVIL LAW DIVISION

Responsibilities

The objective of the Civil Law Division is to provide a complete professional legal service to government. In discharging these responsibilities, the lawyers have inherent common law, as well as statutory, duties as the representives of the attorney general. The lawyers of the Civil Law Division, in their collective role as legal advisor to the various departments and agencies of government, are responsible for ensuring that all actions of government follow accepted principles of due process.

Developments

Civil Law continues to refine and improve upon the delivery of general legal services through lawyers employed by the division, wherever that is practicable. A strenghthened administration has assisted in meeting the demand for this kind of ser-

vice in government, while maintaining the freedom of action lawyers must have in advising their clients.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL DIVISION

Responsibilities

The division is responsible for the conversion of government initiative into legislation, where this is necessary. As a consequence, Legislative Counsel examines, revises, and drafts regulations, orders-in-council, and legislation for all provincial ministries. This division also prepares regulations and legislation for publications.

Developments

1. The division continued to expand and update the loose-leaf publication of the Consolidated Regulations of British Columbia, and published the fourth installment in April, 1983.

2. The second Volume Eight index to the statutes -- updated to December 31, 1982 -- was published in January, 1983.

3. Preparation for the next revisions of the Statutes of British Columbia is being undertaken by Legislative Counsel.

4. The first installment of the regulations data base is now on-line and available to customers through Q. L. Systems Ltd., (Kingston, Ontario).

CONSTITUTIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE LAW DIVISION

Responsibilities

This division is responsible for all constitutional law matters involving the attorney general and other government ministries. It provides counsel in constitutional litigation in all courts and is responsible for advice on administrative law matters, including provincially-constituted tribunals, and for advice on legal matters in connection with native Indians and native Indian land claims.

Developments

The division has begun to administer all aspects of constitutional and administrative law, including litigation in this field, as well as make appearances before major provincial tribu-

nals and, on behalf of British Columbia, before federal regulatory tribunals.

PUBLIC TRUSTEE DIVISION

Responsibilities

The Public Trustee Division serves to protect the estates and financial interests of minors and mentally disordered persons, and settles the estates of deceased and missing persons where no other person is competent or willing to act, in the following ways:

(a) administers the estates as guardian, committee, executor, trustee, administrator, and under power of attorney;

(b) monitors trusts for minors and mentally disordered persons to ensure that they are properly handled;

(c) investigates the estates, financial affairs, and legal claims of minors and mentally disordered persons who are reported to have been imposed upon or taken advantage of, and takes necessary action for remedy; and

(d) administers trust assets in excess of $150 million.

Developments

The complex program for modernization of the control, capacity, response, and security features of the public trustee's accounting systems, in conjunction with the British Columbia Systems Corporation and the comptroller general's office, have been substantially completed. Training in the use of the system, and changes and improvements, will continue to be pursued. The office went onto the new system February 1, 1983, and its cost will be repaid by ordinary office revenue within four to five years.

CIVIL LITIGATION DIVISION

The Civil Litigation Division undertakes the conduct of all aspects of civil litigation, other than constitutional and administrative law matters involving the provincial Crown at all court levels in the province and in the Supreme Court of Canada. This division represents government ministries before provincial administrative tribunals.

LAW DIVISION: PUBLIC TRUSTEE

Responsibilities

The Law Division: Public Trustee provides legal services for specific mental incompetents and infants for whom the public trustee is responsible, as well as for certain estates of deceased and missing persons where no other person is competent or willing to act.

Developments

The impact and complexity of the law and the interaction with the community by persons subject to legal disabilities continue to create a need for legal services from this division.

PLANNING AND SUPPORT SERVICES

POLICY PLANNING BRANCH

The branch consists of the Policy and Program Analysis Division, the Research and Evaluation Division, and the Special Projects Division. The branch's staff complement has remained relatively small with 24 staff members in 1982/83, including 14 professional and 10 support staff.

Increasingly, the three divisions within the branch are undertaking projects on a joint basis to make best use of the specialized resources within each. The branch also works closely with other branches of the ministry in all areas of its responsibilities.

Responsibilities

The following responsibilities are undertaken:

(a) provides the ministry with specialized research, policy analysis, and community development services;

(b) consults on an ongoing basis with the Legal Services Society, Law Reform Commission, law schools at the University of Victoria and the University of British Columbia, Law Society, Canadian Bar Association, and other interested groups concerning policy matters of mutual concern; and

(c) coordinates ministry participation in provincial and federal/provincial meetings and conferences.

POLICY AND PROGRAM ANALYSIS DIVISION

Responsibilities

To coordinate policy development within the ministry and provide policy advice to its executive committee, the division:

(a) analyses existing policies and procedures and prepares briefing material for senior management;

(b) initiates or coordinates policy development on major issues;

(c) coordinates the ministry's legislation program;

(d) develops improved procedures for planning and management control for the ministry's executive;

(e) provides a secretarial function to federal/provincial conferences; and

(f) coordinates the ministry's work in relation to the development of national justice statistics and provides support to the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

Developments

1. Statistical information on key activity and performance measures for the ministry's executive were developed. In cooperation with the operational branches and the Support and Regulatory Services Branch, the division produces monthly reports which allow for the monitoring of trends in demands facing the various components of the justice system. The reports rely heavily on the use of computer-generated graphics for the display of information. The format of the graphics is similar to those contained in this annual report.

2. Twenty-five of the acts for which the attorney general has administrative responsibility were amended through the ministry's 1982 Legislative Program and the new Indian Cut-Off Lands Disputes Act, which authorizes the provincial government to enter into agreements with the native Indian bands and the federal government to resolve long-standing grievances over the loss of reserve lands in the early part of the century, was introduced.

3. The division was involved in various aspects of implementing the new procedures required by the anticipated proclamation of the Young Offenders Act (Canada). In particular, the division conducted a review of the costs associated and current procedures for dealing with juvenile delinquents, assessing the need for complementary provincial legislation, and the development of operational and management information systems to meet the requirements of the act.

4. The division was continually involved in various aspects of federal/provincial relations. The federal government's Bill C-43, the Access to Information Act and the Privacy Act, was given royal assent on July 7, 1982. The two statutes will require agreements with respect to the exchange of information between the federal and provincial government in certain areas. The Policy Planning Branch also has responsibility, on behalf of the contracting provinces and territories, for coordinating negotiations with the federal government for a new cost sharing agreement for the delivery of legal aid services. There were no significant developments in these negotiations during the fiscal year.

The Ministry of Attorney General, through its various branches, continues to play a major role in federal/provincial efforts to improve the quality of national justice statistics. The Policy and Program Analysis Division has the

responsibility of coordinating the ministry's work in this regard.

RESEARCH AND EVALUATION DIVISION

Responsibilities

The division undertakes the following responsibilities:

(a) contributes to the development of more effective and efficient programs and procedures by initiating and administering research and evaluation projects;

(b) coordinates research and evaluation programs affecting the ministry as a whole; and

(c) communicates research activity within the ministry, and between the ministry and outside agencies, such as community research services, universities, and government research staff in other jurisdictions.

Developments

1. The division completed:

(a) a systems evaluation of Burnaby Youth Services (jointly with the Special Projects Division and federal Ministry of the Solicitor General);

(b) an investigation of the efficiency of selected provincial courts;

(c) an inventory of juvenile delinquency prevention programs in British Columbia;

(d) an inventory of juvenile delinquency prevention programs in North American literature;

(e) a feasibility study for research on diversion;

(f) a feasibility study for the evaluation of the native courtworker services;

(g) an evaluation of directives for remand research;

(h) a study of night-time drinking-driving in British Columbia (in conjunction with CounterAttack);

(j) six further research reports for the federal/provincial research program on reparative sanctions, specifically on the theoretical, legal, and admin-

istrative issues concerning compensation to the victim and service to the community by offenders;

(k) several consultation papers for the Federal/Provincial Task Force on Justice for Victims of Crime;

(l) a conference paper on redress by offenders; and

(m) fourth Annual Catalogue of Policy and Research Studies in British Columbia.

2. The division sponsored and coordinated jointly with the Ministry of the Solicitor General, Canada, a national symposium on reparation by offenders.

3. Ongoing work includes (listed last year and not completed this year):

(a) a manual for monitoring and self-evaluation of juvenile crime prevention programs (jointly with Special Projects Division and federal Ministry of Solicitor General);

(b) an evaluation of the Small Claims Resolution Dispute Project; and

(c) consultation regarding victim services, sexual assault centres' information systems, pornography, child sexual abuse, and film classification policy research.

4. Work begun during the 1982/83 fiscal year includes:

(a) an exploratory study of the relationship between video arcades and juvenile crime;

(b) a study of the effects of remand environments on offenders (jointly with the Vancouver Region, Corrections Branch);

(c) a study of driving-while-impaired charges in 12 RCMP detachments (with Police Services Branch - CounterAttack);

(d) the construction of a computer analysis system to read and analyse the Motor Vehicle Branch traffic accident reports;

(e) a policy paper on the criminal justice system's response to wife assault; and

(f) a critical review of the Burnaby Public Defender Pilot Project Study.

SPECIAL PROJECTS DIVISION

Responsibilities

The following responsibilities are undertaken:

(a) provides a range of project services that include design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation, as well as some grant funding and consultation services, to community groups. Division staff assist with a large number of justice-related organizations and complete other tasks as assigned by the executive committee; and

(b) the division's director also serves as the ministry's advisor on Women's Programs and reports to the deputy minister and commissioner of corrections on this assignment.

Developments

1. **The Juvenile Crime Prevention Project** is a three-year co-funded program with the federal solicitor general. It provides assistance to communities in British Columbia to prevent juveniles from coming into conflict with the law by promoting community responsibility and the development of effective juvenile crime prevention strategies. This was the program's second year and there were five major areas of activity:

   (a) Demonstration Programs - A total of nine demonstration projects were funded throughout the province to provide workable models of juvenile crime prevention programs. This funding amounted to $121,000.

   (b) Consultation Services - Twelve consultations involving 80 days of staff time were provided to community organizations and police departments in the province.

   (c) Community Crime Prevention Seminars and Workshops - Two crime prevention seminars were held, one in New Westminster and one in the western communities. A workshop on youth and family counselling programs was held in Vancouver with participants from around the province.

(d) Program Development Studies - Two areas were studied: "The Utilization of Peer Counselling for Juvenile Crime Prevention," and the "The Criminogenic Effects of Commercial Video Arcades."

(e) Publications - Three major reports were published:

(i) "A Systems Evaluation of Burnaby Youth Services;"

(ii) "Juvenile Crime Prevention Program in British Columbia;" and

(iii) "An Inventory of Early Intervention Program Models for the Prevention of Juvenile Crime."

2. **The Kootenay Committee on Intergroup Relations** is a community project carried out by local citizens working to find a peaceful resolution of Doukhobor conflicts in order to prevent further arson and bombing incidents. To that end, meetings have been held this year involving representatives of the relevant Doukhobor communities and government officials.

3. **The Community Grants Program** includes the provision of grant funding and consultation services to:

(a) facilitate the improvement of the administration of justice;

(b) assist in the extension of justice services to those members of our society who do not presently have sufficient access to them; and

(c) provide experimental and alternative programs capable of improving the quality of justice.

There were three categories of funding for community grants:

(a) Short Term, Demonstration Funding for projects designed to investigate new systems for the delivery of justice services;

(b) Core Funding for established agencies who have a broad base of support in the community and have been operating programs and providing services within the justice system for several years. Core funding is for costs such as salaries, office overhead, clerical expenses, and transportation; and

(c) Interministerial Funding for demonstration or core-funded categories on behalf of a variety of ministries or for the government as a whole.

A ministry grants policy - which includes the description of the three types of available grants - funding criteria and a monitoring procedure has been developed. As well, management reviews were completed this year for the majority of all core-funded agencies and the recommendations shared with the agencies involved. Consultation will be available on a limited basis in the coming year to assist agencies to respond to the findings of the reviews.

The following grant-funding was provided through the Special Projects Division this year:

(a) CORE FUNDING was provided to the following 12 agencies for a total amount of $634,817:

Allied Indian and Metis Society
British Columbia Borstal Association
Elizabeth Fry Society of British Columbia - Vancouver
Elizabeth Fry Society of British Columbia - Kamloops
Central Okanagan Elizabeth Fry Society
John Howard Society of British Columbia - Vancouver
John Howard Society of British Columbia - Kamloops
John Howard Society of British Columbia - Okanagan
John Howard Society of Vancouver Island
M2 W2 Association - Christian Volunteers in Corrections
The Salvation Army
People's Law School Society

(b) INTERMINISTERIAL FUNDING was provided to the following seven agencies for a total of $324,413:

Vancouver Status of Women
The Cowichan Rape Assault Society, Duncan
North Peace Community Resources, Fort St. John
Thompson - Nicola Rape Crisis Centre, Kamloops
Ksan House Society, Terrace
Women Against Violence Against Women Rape Crisis Centre, Vancouver
Status of Women Action Group, Victoria

The latter six centres are newly established and provide a wide range of services. These inlude immediate support and assistance to victims of sexual assault, information about, and accompaniment support, through police, medical, and legal procedures, as well as counselling and, where appropriate, referrals to other community services. The centres also conduct public education programs and provide input into development and training courses for professionals working in this field.

Based on an annual budget of $221,894 (an increase of approximately 50 per cent over the previous year) a prorated amount of $181,920 was provided to these new centres.

ADDITIONAL GRANT - As of October, 1981, the Native Courtworker and Counselling Association of British Columbia received its funding through the Special Projects Division and federal Department of Justice. This program involves a network of courtworkers in 34 locations across the province, as well as prison liaison workers who provide services to native inmates in provincial institutions. The total grant for this fiscal year is $1,637,838.

4. **Additional Tasks:** Division staff also assisted with the development of ministry policy and planning in the areas of crime prevention, victims services, pending federal Young Offenders Act, staff training, and others.

5. **Women's Programs:** An action plan for Women's Programs for the ministry was developed. The plan has received executive committee approval and will be implemented in the coming year.

SUPPORT AND REGULATORY SERVICES BRANCH

Responsibilities

Support and Regulatory Services undertakes the following responsibilities:

(a) develop appropriate budgetary, capital (facility), and personnel management plans to enable the ministry to discharge its program and service obligations; and

(b) provide administrative and management support services to independent boards, agencies, and commissions associated with the ministry. The latter group includes programs such as the Coroner's Service, the fire commissioner, the British Columbia Racing Commission, the Land Title Office, and others. The branch incorporates the following units:

Finance and Administration Division
- Financial Policy and Analysis Section
- Financial Operations Section
- Internal Audit Program
- Facilities Management Section
- Data Services Section

Information Services Division
- Information Services Section
- Library Services Section

Personnel Services Division

Land Title Office

Developments

1. The ministry budget policy and the submission of estimates for Treasury Board review were developed and coordinated.

2. The ministry's five-year capital program continued to be developed and implemented.

3. The management of expenditure and revenue, data processing, and information system development in a number of programs, including the Land Title Office and the Office of the Public Trustee, and management of the ministry's facilities throughout the province continued.

4. Financial management manuals continued to be developed, consistent with the Financial Administration Act, and special

Ministry of Attorney General

	Estimates 1982/83	
	$	Staff
Minister's Office	$ 149,981	5
Administration and Support Services	61,814,944	163
Superior & County Judiciary	1,897,930	59
Provincial Judiciary	9,366,316	138
Police Services	65,895,693	103
Court Services	43,191,802	1,507
Corrections	74,430,116	2,103
Legal Services to Government	8,668,456	114
Criminal Justice	13,844,474	294
Statutory Services, Boards, Commissions		
- Legal Services Society	$ 13,400,619	-
- Law Reform Commission	423,936	8
- Coroners	3,600,779	32
- Public Trustee (Net Recoveries)	2,181,596	89
- Fire Commission	2,298,155	48
- B.C. Racing Commission	812,641	14
- Land Titles	9,100,657	334
- Film Classification	187,764	6
- Firearms & Private Investigators	333,068	11
- Order-In-Council Patients Review Board	116,539	2
- Criminal Injury Compensation Act	2,700,000	-
- B.C. Parole Board	476,547	6
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	$314,892,013	5,036

audit services were provided to enhance management decision making in the ministry.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

The Finance and Administration Division is divided into four sections:

Financial Operations Section
Facilities Management Section
Data Services Section
Financial Policy and Analysis Section

Responsibilities

The division is responsible for:

(a) development, application, and maintenance of new financial policies needed within the ministry as a consequence of the proclamation of the Financial Administration Act; and

(b) management of all aspects of the ministry's data and facilities sections.

Financial Operations Section

Responsibilities

The primary purpose of this section is to effectively process all accounting documents to ensure that all accounts for supplies and services rendered are paid within a reasonable time. In addition, it processes payroll documents for the ministry to ensure that employees are put on payroll and paid in accordance with the relevent regulations.

Facilities Management Section

Responsibilities

The responsibility of this section is to ensure that the ministry is housed in satisfactory accommodation. This is accomplished through:

(a) encouraging and assisting branches to recognize and plan for accommodation needs;

(b) developing capital projects;

(c) liaising with Treasury Board staff to prepare annual capital budgets and five-year capital plans which will encourage Treasury Board approval for capital projects;

(d) liaising with B.C. Buildings Corporation and branch staff to manage the development of capital projects to completion; and

(e) constantly reviewing present space inventory to plan changes and improvements which will lead to more efficient and cost effective use of existing space.

This section reports regularly to the ministry on the state of accommodation and the progress of capital costs.

Developments

Since moving from Vancouver to Victoria, the section has attempted to:

(a) clarify its functions to the field so that ministry staff become totally aware of what is required of them in the development of capital projects;

(b) produce a portfolio management system to allocate funds from the total occupancy budget to allow for small capital projects throughout the year; and

(c) work closely with the Treasury Board Capital Budgeting Task Force to assist in the development of a computer-based system of monitoring capital spending in a manner that fulfills the needs of both the Treasury Board and the ministry.

Data Services Section

Responsibilties

This section coordinates with the British Columbia Systems Corporation for all data processing in the ministry and provides support to word processing applications and manual systems evaluation.

Developments

1. Police Projects - The operation of police terminal access to the drivers' file - Police Automated Registration Information System - has been modified to include complete

drivers' records for court purposes. In addition, the system can be readily modified to include drivers' point totals when legislation will require this data for prosecutions.

The Uniform Crime Reporting System was modified, adding new offence codes as a result of Criminal Code changes.

2. Corrections - The local institutional system at the Lower Mainland Regional Correction Centre, which includes procedures to supervise the institutional inmate population there, was developed and completed. The system was installed at the Vancouver Pretrial Centre in August, 1983, and will be installed at other institutions as funding permits. The Provincial Case File System continues to provide valuable management information on adult offenders.

3. Courts - Existing operational systems have been maintained and modified to meet additional requirements. The provincial court system in the Lower Mainland is being modified to include witness administration to assist the courts in setting trial dates and in preparing related documents. Availability of police/witnesses will be determined prior to setting of court dates.

4. Administrative Projects - A computerized system for the Office of the Public Trustee has been operational since October, 1982. This system automates accounting, case management, property and security management, and provides management information for the public trustee.

   Development of the land title system continued with the implementation date scheduled for August, 1983, for the Victoria office.

   Existing operational systems were maintained and optimized as required. A number of word processors have been installed following requirement studies.

5. Young Offenders Act - The pending proclamation of the federal Young Offenders Act initiated a general requirement study for maintenance and destruction of records, as well as management information on young offenders. The study has identified the need for automation to meet these requirements and development is scheduled to commence in 1983/84.

Financial Policy and Analysis Section

In response to the passage of the Financial Administration

Act, 1981, the Financial Policy and Analysis Section was formed in May, 1982, by adding the functions of financial policy and financial analysis to the previous Budget Analysis Unit.

Responsibilities

The section undertakes the following responsibilities:

(a) coordinates the ministry's budget-building process;

(b) produces and distributes the ministry's Financial Administration Policy and Procedures Manual;

(c) carries out financial analyses of current and pending ministry programs;

(d) monitors ministry revenues and expenditures;

(e) assists in the development of financial information systems;

(f) reviews draft financial policy statements from central agencies; and

(g) reviews ministry submissions to cabinet and to Treasury Board.

Developments

1. The functions of financial policy and financial analysis, which were added to the section during the year, were carried out.

2. The ministry's contribution to the government-wide expenditure restraint imposed during the year was coordinated.

3. Production of the ministry Financial Administration Policy and Procedures Manual began.

4. The financial implications of the new Motor Vehicle Act and the pending federal Young Offenders Act were reviewed and refined.

INFORMATION SERVICES DIVISION

Information Services Section

Responsibilities

This section is responsible for providing:

(a) external and internal communication of information pertaining to the ministry;

(b) guidance and advice with regard to media relations and the preparation of publications to ministry executives; and

(c) current information regarding changes and developments on programs, services, structures, and policies within the ministry to the people of British Columbia.

In order to disseminate information, this section prepares and distributes news releases, brochures, booklets, audio-visual materials, and produces the ministry annual report.

Library Services Section

Responsibilites

The responsibilities of this section are:

(a) the acquisition, bibliographic control, and distribution of texts, reports, government documents, and other types of materials, published and unpublished;

(b) development of a central law and management collection;

(c) reference services;

(d) inter-library loans and other user services;

(e) coordination of ministry library activities;

(f) liaison with related agencies, such as the B.C. Law Library Foundation, the Canadian Law Information Council, the Canadian Association of Law Libraries, and the Government Library Association of B.C.;

(g) provision of legal materials to justices of the peace; and

(h) provision of a grant for book purchases by the judges' library.

Developments

1. The central law library gained some much needed floor space, which eliminated the cramped atmosphere of the study area.

2. The library collection at the Vancouver Regional Crown of-

fice was completely organized and catalogued and a start was made at organizing the collection at Criminal Justice Headquarters. Court Services Headquarters was also contacted with respect to initial plans to organize that library in the coming year.

PERSONNEL SERVICES DIVISION

Responsibilities

The division recruits and selects staff for the ministry, classifies positions, monitors labor relations, provides safety standards training, and supervises employee relations. The division is responsible for the establishment control of 5,036 full-time positions in the ministry.

Developments

1. The Clearbrook Personnel Services Division was opened in spring, 1982. There are now offices established in all ministry regions.

2. Recruiting activities were reduced during the past fiscal year, due to the major government restraint program (August, 1982), as indicated by the following figures:

   (a) average number of competitions initiated per month:
   55 (pre-restraint) 15 (post-restraint)

   (b) average staffing actions per month (all changes in employee status):
   506 (pre-restraint) 300 (post-restraint)

Organization: The division conducted major organizational reviews with the Land Title Office, Police Services Branch, Financial Services Division, Corrections Branch, and the Court Services Branch.

Classification Review:

BCGEU Positions	Excluded Positions	Legal Officer Positions
288	87	17

Employee Relations: Personnel Services was extremely involved in negotiating one master and three component agreements with the B. C. Government Employees Union. There were 923 disciplinary and 166 interpretive formal grievances during the year.

Management and Supervisory Training:

Sessions Conducted	Number of Employees Attending
25	264

LAND TITLE OFFICE

Responsibilities

1. This division operates the Torrens System of registration of title to land, maintains and develops the system, and carries out the following functions through its regional offices:

   (a) brings newly-granted Crown land into the system;

   (b) registers and gives good safeholding and marketable title to all land dealings by owners;

   (c) records involuntary claims against land, such as builders liens and caveats;

   (d) passes on the correctness of plans of subdivision of land and registers same if found to be in order;

   (e) provides state of title certificates and other classes of search of land title records; and

   (f) provides the forum and judicial officer for various types of hearings under the Land Title Act.

2. The seven Land Title districts are supervised under the direction of their own registrars, through the director of Land Titles. The director regulates the procedures followed in the registry offices, is available to advise registrars on all legal matters, and performs the duties of registrar when required.

   The responsibility of each registrar is to interpret the Land Title Act and all applicable law, and to ensure that security of title is maintained at all times.

Developments

The computer-assisted Automated Land Title Office System (ALTOS) has been an ongoing project in the Land Title Office since 1979. The development phase of the project was completed in January, 1983, and implementation of computerization will

start on August 1, 1983, beginning with the Victoria Land Title office.

On the implementation of ALTOS, British Columbia will be the first Canadian province to operate a Torrens land title system electronically. This represents an outstanding achievement in the history of the British Columbia Land Title Office.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

B.C. Board of Parole*
B.C. Coroner's Service
B.C. Police Commission*
B.C. Police Academy
B.C. Racing Commission*
Justice Development Commission*
Criminal Injury Compensation Act*
Law Reform Commission*
Legal Services Society*
Office of the Fire Commissioner*
Order-in-Council Patients Review Board

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* The statute under which this body was established requires the tabling of an annual report in the legislature by the attorney general, in addition to this report.

B.C. BOARD OF PAROLE

Responsibilities

The Parole Board, under provisions of the Parole Act (Canada), reviews applications for parole from inmates in provincial correctional centres. Administrative support and evaluation services are provided by the board office staff.

Developments

1. The annual recruitment of candidates from the community for board membership was conducted. This provides opportunity for local groups, agencies, and individuals to participate in the process of recruitment by identifying citizens who meet the criteria for membership as potential candidates. The contacts established by the board through this activity provide excellent opportunity to further the board's objectives of public information and accountability.

2. Major policy development focussed on victims. The board's interest in giving recognition to victim needs supports the concept of justice by reinforcing offender responsibility and accountability, by providing tangible benefits to the victim and/or community, and by building public confidence through reparative activities.

3. A word processor/mini-computer was acquired which will further enhance the board's ability to develop a management information system to support program research and evaluation. The first major project completed with this equipment was the production of a new Manual of Policy and Procedures for use by board members and related agencies with whom the board works.

4. A significant increase in the board's workload was recorded again this past year. A total of 1,488 reviews were conducted by the board in 393 hearing days. Of these reviews, 663 resulted in parole grant, 534 in parole denials, and 116 in parole revocations. The remaining reviews were either deferred for final decision or no action was taken.

5. The board's association with other parole boards in Canada (National, Ontario, and Quebec) continues to be productive in areas of inter-jurisdictional cooperation and as a focus for discussion of professional issues.

   The board files a separate comprehensive annual report with the attorney general.

B.C. CORONER'S SERVICE

Responsibilities

The coroner's prime objectives are to establish cause of death, determine by what means a person came to his/her death, and prevent future loss of life in similar circumstances. The Coroner's Service is responsible, firstly, to the deceased and relatives and friends of the deceased, secondly, to society as a whole, and, thirdly, to government agencies and other organizations.

The Coroner's Service incorporates four programs:

(a) Fact Finding - This encompasses the activities required to identify all the circumstances surrounding an unexpected or unnatural death. These include the coroner's own investigation, scientific medical investigation, independent investigation, and the coroner's analysis of each of these investigations.

(b) Judicial - The coroner reviews the facts and makes an adjudication of the cause of death. This is done in a tribunal through an inquiry by the coroner or in a public inquest by a coroner's jury.

(c) Preventive - It is the coroner's responsibility to make recommendations to prevent repetition of similar deaths. These recommendations are submitted to the chief coroner, who is required by law to disseminate them to appropriate persons or organizations. Additional activities of this program include statistical analysis to identify trends in mortality, research, and the development of public awareness campaigns arising from that research.

(d) Administrative - The purpose of this program is to facilitate the effectiveness of the fact-finding, judicial, and preventive programs of the B.C. Coroner's Service.

Developments

1. Organization:

The Coroner's Service:

(a) completed staffing of the regional offices with the appointment of Dr. R. E. Stevenson as regional coroner for Prince George;

(b) opened district coroners offices in Burnaby, Victoria, Chilliwack, and Kamloops; and

(c) appointed District Coroner G. Tilley to the Burnaby office. The other offices are staffed by full-time fee-for-service coroners. It is anticipated that similar offices will be opened for Prince George, Kelowna, and Nanaimo during the forthcoming year, and this should complete the district office program in the province.

2. Forensic Pathology Services: Dr. James Ferris has taken up the duties of provincial forensic pathologist.

3. Forensic Toxicology: Several workshops and toxicological seminars were arranged for refinement and upgrading of the toxicological investigation. They were partly sponsored by the B.C. Coroner's Service, and attracted guest lecturers from both the U.S.A. and Canada.

The forensic toxicological services provided by the Provincial Toxicology Centre have been greatly improved during the past year under the expert guidance of Dr. S. Chan. Two major pieces of instrumentation are expected in the near future: a gas chromatograph and a high performance liquid chromatograph. This equipment produces faster and more accurate sample information at a lower cost.

4. Special Programs:

(a) Aviation - The Aviation Safety Program, under the guidance of Regional Coroner J. Carpenter, has been instrumental in steadily improving safety conditions, upgrading aircraft maintenance standards, and increasing pilot-awareness of flying hazards in terrain and weather in this province.

(b) Commercial Vehicles - Mr. Fergus Savage has been retained to assist coroners in all fatalities involving commercial vehicles in the province. He has been actively engaged in all facets of the road transportation industry for the last 20 years. His outstanding expertise is in the field of commercial vehicle collision analysis and the human factor analysis with regard to the professional driver.

(c) Human Factor Analysis - For the human factor analysis, with particular concentration on suicides, Mr. G. Elmore is a highly qualified behavioralist with a background as a psychiatric social worker and counsellor to federal Department of Indian Affairs, Drug and Alcohol Commission, and Ministry of Human Resources. His main objectives are to interpret intent from behavior in different cases and to make an assessment of the preventability of deaths.

5. Education: Several coroners are active in the community by lecturing on topics related to the Coroner's Service. These educational sessions have been given to dental technicians and x-ray radiologists, industrial first aid attendants, police officers, high school students, pathologists, general practitioners, and hospital administrators.

6. Training: A series of training seminars was again conducted and 90 per cent of all the coroners in the province attended. Some of the topics discussed were: conduct and legal preparation of an inquest; when to have an inquest (case coordination, case planning); commercial vehicle investigation; death scene investigation; and behavioral investigation of suicides.

7. Administration:

   (a) Data retrieval systems have been methodically developed to their full potential. The Coroner's Service is now in a position to retrieve statistical data for research purposes and is working in close liaison with agencies such as the Red Cross, Association for the Prevention of Suicide, the Drug Strategy Committee, and several sports organizations. The collection and dissemination of this type of information and the coordinated effort between the Coroner's Service and these concerned agencies and organizations in the province supports, to a great extent, the preventive role of the coroner; and

   (b) a new reporting system was effected January 1, 1983, whereby all deaths reported to coroners must be phoned in to the chief coroner's office within four hours. After office hours, the cases are recorded on tape to maintain the service in operation 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This method allows for quick decisions regarding the application of special, scientific, or forensic services to the case, if necessary, as well as the immediate dispatch of a special investigator to the scene. The procedure is very advantageous to the coroner's fact-finding role, as it improves the possibility for a thorough and detailed investigation of each case. In addition, the Coroner's Service secured the full-time services of two further experts in 1982, for the fields of commercial vehicle safety and human factor analysis.

B.C. POLICE COMMISSION

The B.C. Police Commission consists of three citizen commissioners appointed for non-renewable five-year terms; two executive officers who were serving officers of independent municipal police and RCMP forces in British Columbia, a research officer, and a small office staff.

Responsibilities

The commission is responsible for:

(a) setting standards for policing and police training;

(b) improving communication and understanding between the police and the public;

(c) assisting police boards in independent municipalities;

(d) conducting research on matters affecting policing;

(e) issuing statistics;

(f) overseeing the police-citizen complaints process;

(g) serving as an appeal body in citizen complaint and internal police discipline proceedings; and

(h) publishing the quarterly B.C. Police Journal. This role was later expanded to include auditing operations and management of the province's 12 independent municipal police forces and hearing appeals under the Private Investigators and Security Agencies Act.

The B.C. Police Commission tables its own annual report.

Developments

1. The auditing of independent municipal police forces was increased.

2. A complaints officer was added to the commission's staff to aid and advise citizens wishing to launch complaints against police.

3. Municipalities that are policed by the RCMP were visited for discussion of local issues with police and citizens.

4. Commission activities were reduced as a result of the budget reduction from $647,719 in 1981/82 to $555,667 in the 1982/83 fiscal year. Staff was reduced at fiscal year end

from 12 to eight, publication of the B.C. Police Journal ceased, seminars were curtailed, and travel was limited. Crime prevention coordination was transferred to the Ministry of Attorney General staff, as was much of the responsibility for the Police Academy at the B.C. Justice Institute.

5. Dr. Malcolm Matheson, Executive Director of the Federal/Provincial Drug Strategy Committee, was named as new chairman of the commission in October, 1982. At the same time, Commissioner Gordon Dalton, who had been serving as acting chairman of the commission, retired after four years of service. There are currently only two commissioners, Dr. M. Matheson and Mr. Paul St. Pierre.

6. A review of the Police Act was completed. Consideration continues to be given to the Police Commission's role in relation to the ministry's executive role and responsibilities.

B.C. POLICE ACADEMY

Responsibilities

1. The academy conducts the following training programs, in compliance with the B.C. Police Act (1974):

   (a) trains recruits to any of the 12 municipal police forces prior to the first anniversary of employment with a B.C. municipal police board, through the Peace Officers Basic Training Program. The program covers a three-year training period before the recruit attains the status of certified municipal constable;

   (b) provides management and specialized courses for the police community and currently offers a schedule of 37 courses through The Advanced Programs Section. The section also offers one-day seminars and workshops to municipal police and RCMP on topical police-related issues; and

   (c) provides previously trained police officers, by virtue of their former training and experience, lateral entry to the B.C. Police Training Standard. Entry is allowed upon successful completion of exemption and challenge procedures.

2. Broad personnel assessment services are provided for departments at recruit and management levels, including the formulation of task-related examinations through the Research, Development, and Assessment Section. The section also assists police departments in a consultative capacity

in general police research and develops courses for the Recruit and Advanced Programs Sections of the academy.

3. The Police Advanced Education Certificate Program coordinates post-secondary courses at local colleges and universities.

Developments

1. The academy produced a total of 18,990 student training days through recruit and advanced programs, processed 100 prospective municipal constables through the Research, Development, and Assessment Section, and 150 candidates for rank promotion through the Assessment Centre. Seven candidates wrote the one-day exemption examination and two participated in the three-day challenge procedures.

2. A system of video roll-call training tapes were developed to meet the demands of both changing procedures and legislation. This has proved to be a cost effective way to provide field officers with current information on such topical police issues as high risk vehicle stops, legal definitions, and cold water rescue procedures.

B.C. RACING COMMISSION

Responsibilities

The commission undertakes the following responsibilities:

(a) governs, directs, controls, and regulates horse racing in the province and, in carrying out these responsibilities, holds hearings, makes by-laws for the conduct of Racing Commission business, and fulfills and enforces regulations authorized by the lieutenant governor-in-council. These regulations provide for the supervision of all race meetings, the licensing of all participants, and the maintenance of a permanent staff of racing officials, investigators, and clerical personnel;

(b) directly supervises each race meeting conducted in the province, through two representatives of the commission who enforce the racing regulations and take punitive action upon those found to be in violation of those regulations; and

(c) examines all horses prior to their racing to ensure their ability to compete at their highest possible level.

Developments

Since 1978, the Racing Commission has been responsible for the disbursement of the Horse Racing Improvement Fund, developed under the Horse Racing Tax Act. In 1982, the fund totalled $7,552,155, which was determined at the rate of 3.5 per cent of the total dollars wagered. In 1982, $221,308,573 was wagered in British Columbia, an increase of 7.7 per cent over 1981.

With the Horse Racing Improvement Fund proving to be the incentive required to encourage horse breeders to expand their breeding commitments and to encourage horse owners to improve their racing stock, this commission believes that British Columbia will develop into a major breeding and racing centre within the next 10 years. The commission has noted specific breeding improvements, even in the early stage of this incentive and, with the breeders being rewarded for the improved racing stock, is confident the program is succeeding. The horse owners have shown their eagerness to participate in the fund by paying higher prices for the British Columbia-bred racing stock and have imported established bloodlines from outside the province to race at the local tracks, with a view of breeding that stock when their racing days are over.

The numbers of horses now being foaled in the province for racing purposes may encourage the further development of race tracks in areas which do not presently enjoy this form of entertainment.

The B.C. Racing Commission submits its own annual report.

JUSTICE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

The last activity of the Justice Development Commission, which was the management of ministerial grant funding, was transferred to the Special Projects Division of the Policy Planning Branch, effective April 1, 1982. The commission has been inactive since that time.

CRIMINAL INJURY SECTION OF THE WORKERS COMPENSATION BOARD

Responsibilities

The Criminal Injury Compensation Act enables compensation to be provided where a person is injured or killed in British Columbia as a result of:

(a) the commission of any one of 44 criminal offences set out in the schedule of the act, or where the injury or death resulted from the commission of an offence;

(b) the lawful arrest or attempt to arrest an offender or suspected offender, or assisting a peace officer in making or attempting to make an arrest; or

(c) the lawful prevention or attempt to prevent the commission of a criminal offence or suspected offence, or assisting a peace officer in preventing or attempting to prevent the commission of such offence or suspected offence.

A separate annual report on the Criminal Injury Compensation Board is tabled in the legislature.

Developments

In the calendar year 1982, the actual cost of the program was $3,391,291, of which 12 per cent was cost incurred by the Workers' Compensation Board in the administration of the act. The amount paid to victims was $2,969,327.

There is a 10-cents-per-capita contribution from the federal government, which results in a contribution for fiscal year 1982/1983 of approximately $270,000.

LAW REFORM COMMISSION

Responsibilities

The objective of the commission is to reform the laws which are relevant to the needs of the people of British Columbia, rendering them sound in principle and policy and workable in practice.

Developments

1. A grant of $305,000 was received from the Law Foundation of British Columbia in October, 1982, to assist the commission in carrying out its work for the period November 1, 1982, to March 31, 1984.

2. Final reports submitted to the attorney general included the following titles:

   (a) Arbitration (LRC 55);

   (b) Presumptions of Survivorship (LRC 56);

   (c) The Crown as Creditor: Priorities and Privileges (LRC 57);

(d) Interpretation of Wills (LRC 58);

(e) Interest and Jurisdictional Limits in the County and Provincial Courts (LRC 59);

(f) Standing of a Common Law Spouse to Apply under the Family Compensation Act (LRC 61); and

(g) Interspousal Immunity in Tort (LRC 62).

3. Working Papers distributed for comment and response included the following titles:

(a) Interspousal Immunity in Tort;

(b) Statutory Succession Rights;

(c) Competing Rights to Mingled Property: Tracing and the Rule in Clayton's Case;

(d) Peremptory Challenges in Civil Jury Trials;

(e) Illegal Contracts;

(f) Breach of Promise of Marriage;

(g) Bulk Sales Legislation; and

(h) Covenants in Restraint of Trade.

4. Progress was made on the following topics:

(a) intentional interference with domestic relations;

(b) review of jury awards;

(c) compensation for non-pecuniary loss; and

(d) offers to settle.

5. Government action was taken in 1982 with respect to recommendations contained in the following reports of the commission:

(a) LRC 38, The Replevin Act: Attorney General Statutes Amendment Act 1982, S.B.C. 1982, c.46, ss. 3-6, 25, 37-41; and

(b) LRC 5, Expropriation: circulation of "Green Paper," entitled "Discussion Proposal for a New Expropriation Act," by the Minister of Inter-governmental Affairs.

The Law Reform Commission submits its own annual report.

LEGAL SERVICES SOCIETY

Responsibilities

The society undertakes the following responsibilities:

(a) administers a legal aid plan and funds a number of agencies, including 11 community law offices, to provide legal services to people who cannot afford a lawyer. The legal aid plan is administered by 15 Legal Services Society branch offices. Services are provided by staff lawyers and by lawyers in private practice on a referral basis;

(b) provides legal services to native people through the legal aid plan and through three community law offices located in native communities and four information counsellors in Native Frienship Centres; and

(c) provides a number of education and information programs for the public, including the Schools Program, the Public Legal Education Program, and the Library Services Program.

Developments

1. There was a dramatic increase in demand for service, due in large part to the downturn in the economy and changes in Crown procedural practices. As a result, the society made the following drastic cuts in services and staff levels in an attempt to cope with an escalating deficit:

   (a) reduced staff levels by approximately 15 per cent;

   (b) reduced fees paid to lawyers in private practice by 12 1 2 per cent;

   (c) cut programs by 20 per cent; and

   (d) significantly reduced allowable income levels for legal aid applicants and the types of legal problems covered.

2. Additional grants of $.8 million and $1.9 million were received from the provincial government and $.5 million from the new foundation in an attempt to fund the deficit. The society's deficit exceeded this amount, likely necessitating further service cuts in 1983/84.

3. The development and implementation of a new management information system was completed. The system will provide

more detailed information on caseloads and costs in 1983/84 and will greatly assist in future planning.

The Legal Services Society submits its own annual report.

OFFICE OF THE FIRE COMMISSIONER

Responsibilities

The provincial fire commissioner administers the Fire Services Act, which covers requirements for fire prevention in the province. The Municipal Act provides for municipalities, if they so wish, to form fire departments for fire suppression in their areas.

There are about 2,600 full-time career firefighters, 5,000 volunteers, and 300 industrial firefighters in approximately 300 fire departments within British Columbia.

Forest fir protection, because of its special nature, is the responsibility of the Protection Branch, Ministry of Forests.

1. The responsibilities of the fire commissioner are:

   (a) collection and dissemination of information about fires in the province;

   (b) investigations and inquiries into fires;

   (c) investigation of conditions under which fires are likely to occur; and

   (d) studying methods of fire prevention.

2. The fire commissioner is also responsible for providing advice and recommendations on:

   (a) provision of adequate water suplies;

   (b) installation and maintenance of fire alarm and fire extinguishing equipment;

   (c) enactment and enforcement of municipal by-laws for fire prevention or to protect life and property from fire;

   (d) planning of municipal areas to protect against fire; and

   (e) other fire prevention and inspection matters.

3. With regard to fire suppression, the fire commissioner:

   (a) consults with and gives information and advice to fire chiefs and fire departments;

   (b) establishes minimum standards for selection and training of fire service personnel; and

   (c) gives advice and recommendations on the establishment of fire departments.

Developments

This was the first complete year in which all six regional offices were operational. The first one opened in Nanaimo in June, 1979, and the others -- serving the Vancouver, Fraser, Kootenay, Interior, and Northern regions -- opened in mid-1981.

1. The regional offices administer the Fire Services Act and regulations pursuant to the act. Some of the specific activities last year included:

   (a) investigation of 426 suspicious fires, or fires where there was loss of life, large property damage, or where violations of the regulations were suspected;

   (b) examination of 404 plans to ensure compliance with applicable regulations under the act;

   (c) surveys of 27 fire apparatus for the provision of water supplies, fire apparatus, fire station, and fire fighter requirements;

   (d) inspection of 686 properties for fire safety deficiencies;

   (e) provision of guidance, advice, and direction for the public and the fire service in the enforcement of the various complex codes and standards relating to fire safety (approximately 25 per cent of inspectors' time was spent on this activity); and

   (f) conclusion of 196 appeals to building infraction orders. These orders, issued by inspectors who are assistants to the fire commissioner, give building

owners a time limit (30, 60, 90 days) in which to upgrade noted deficiencies.

2. The Fire Academy offered 43 courses at the Justice Institute that were attended by 1,048 students. The courses included leadership development, fire prevention, fire investigation, volunteer fire fighting (field training), and industrial fire prevention.

3. Four issues of a newsletter, "INFIREMATION," with a circulation of 2,500, were distributed to government offices, industry, media, and others interested in fire safety. Approximately 60,000 copies of "Guidelines," a publication dealing with various fire topics, were distributed.

4. Fire prevention safety film strips were distributed to all the television stations in British Columbia for broadcasting as public service announcements.

5. A program to encourage the use of a standard safety curriculum in elementary schools was initiated. The curriculum, designed by Canada Safety Council, can be easily integrated into regularly-taught subject areas.

6. A provincial fire prevention contest was initiated for fire departments. B.C. fire chiefs have indicated strong support for the contest, which will aim to encourage and reward the development and wider use of effective fire prevention and safety ideas and programs. The first contest will be judged on programs during the calendar year 1983.

7. Regulations for the administration of propane were transferred to the Gas Safety Branch, Ministry of Labor, effective October 1, 1982. For 48 years, the administration had been the responsibility of the fire marshal and, later, the fire commissioner. The transfer was designed to centralize administration, permits, licences, and inspections by consolidating the natural gas and propane gas services under a single authority. It enabled the fire commissioner's office to focus more clearly on its primary objective to improve fire safety to the public.

8. The commission reviewed regulations and made recommendations relating to the licensing of moving-picture theatres and projectionists.

Fire Losses in 1981

Year	No. of Fires	$ Loss (millions)	Number Injured	No. of Deaths
1982	7,623	157.3	375	73
1981	7,021	116.0	244	76
1980	7,661	108.4	305	89

The average loss-per-fire for the province in 1982 was $20,634 and the per capita loss was $57.31. There was an average of 2.78 fires for every 1,000 persons in British Columbia.

Fire Fatalities

Men 36, women 24, children 13.

Residential Fires

34 per cent (1-2 family dwelling) for $46.8 million.

7.3 per cent (apartment buildings) for $6.6 million.

Educational Institutions

Year	Number	$ Loss (millions)
1982	77	3.6
1981	84	1.8
1980	94	8.3

Automobile Fires

1,591 (21 per cent) vehicles for $3.2 million.

Arson

1,465 (19.2 per cent) deliberately set fires for $49.3 million.

Large-Loss Fires

Four (1 per cent) in which individual losses exceeded $250,000, for a total of $61.4 million.

The Office of the Fire Commissioner submits its own annual report.

ORDER-IN-COUNCIL PATIENTS REVIEW BOARD

Responsibilities

The board undertakes the following responsibilities:

(a) reviews the records of all patients ordered in custody by virtue of having been judged not guilty of a crime by reason of insanity or unfit to stand trial. However, the board no longer considers the cases of persons who become mentally ill while serving a sentence. All patients under the board's responsibility have been confined by an order issued by the lieutenant governor-in-council to the B.C. Forensic Psychiatric Institute;

(b) reviews the case of every patient not later than six months after the making of the order-in-council and at least once in every 12-month period following that initial review. In practice, the board makes its first review within three months of the order and within every eight months thereafter; and

(c) makes recommendations, on the basis of the review, to the lieutenant governor-in-council for the continued custody, discharge, transfer, or trial of the patient. The final decision rests with cabinet.

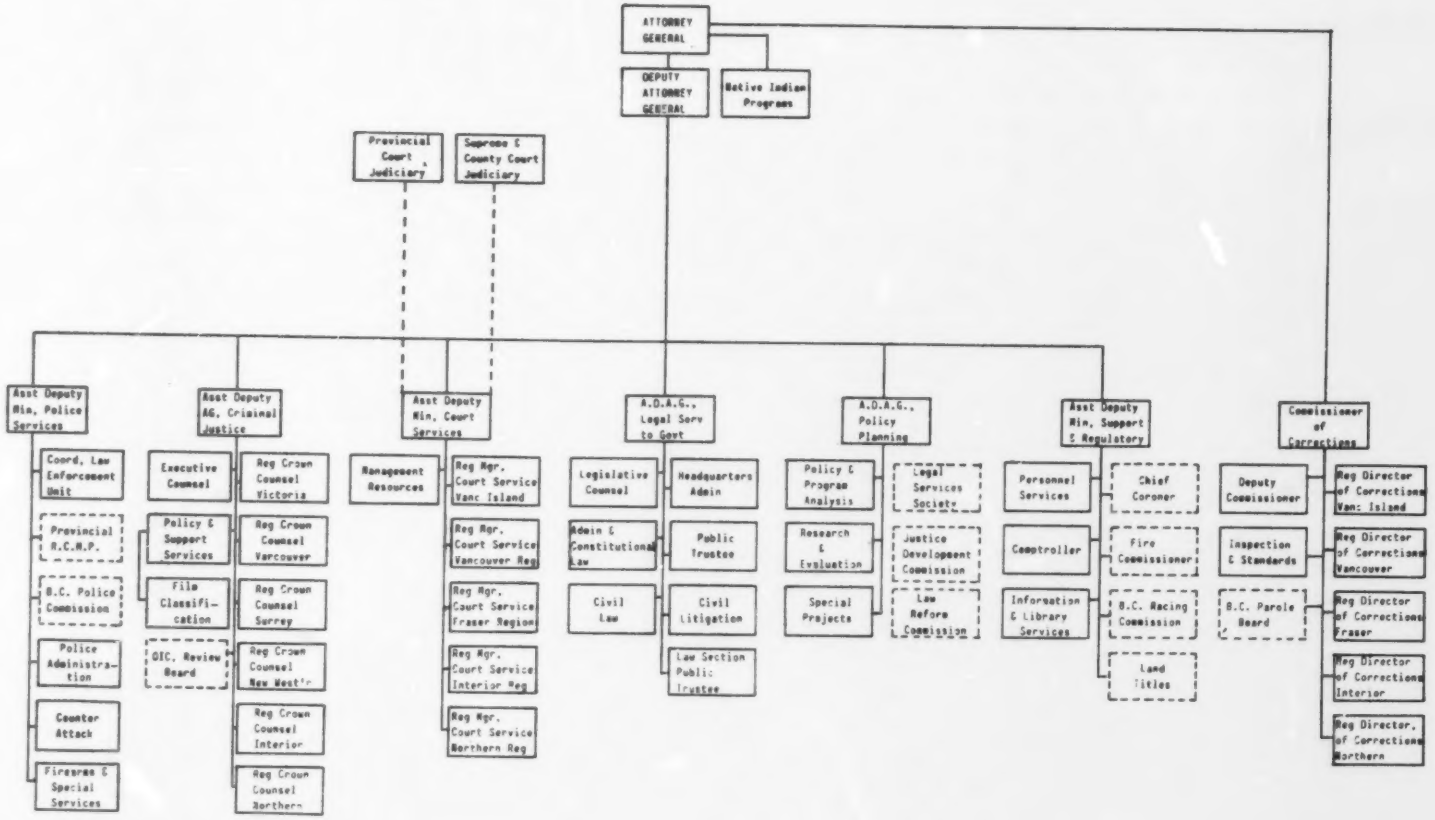
Developments

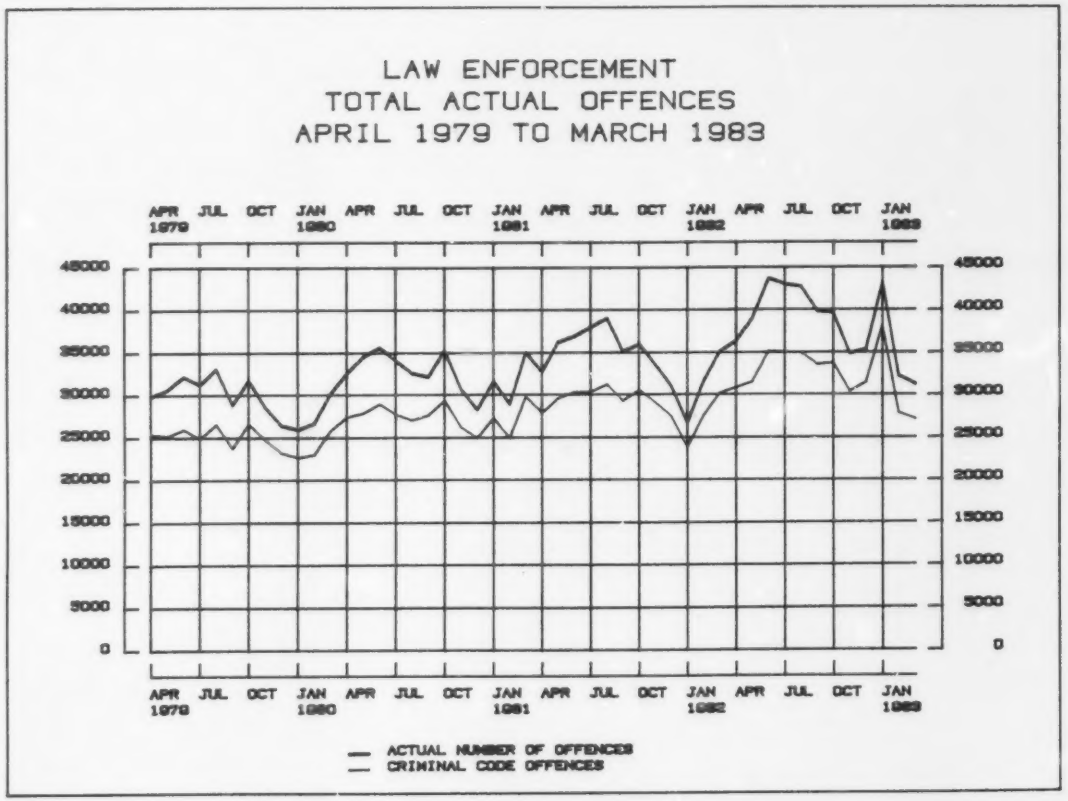
The board conducted 206 individual patient interviews, which is down from the 1981/82 figure of 227. The patient population movement is consistent with previous years and the census as of March 31, 1983, was 80 inpatients and 57 outpatients, with a total of 137.

The success of the board's operations is evidenced by the extremely high percentage of persons under supervision in the community who manage without further conflict with the law. Its recommendations have resulted in no reported serious incidents involving violence. The board has continued the effective exercise of a very sensitive jurisdiction that requires balancing the health and interest of the patient with the need to protect the public.

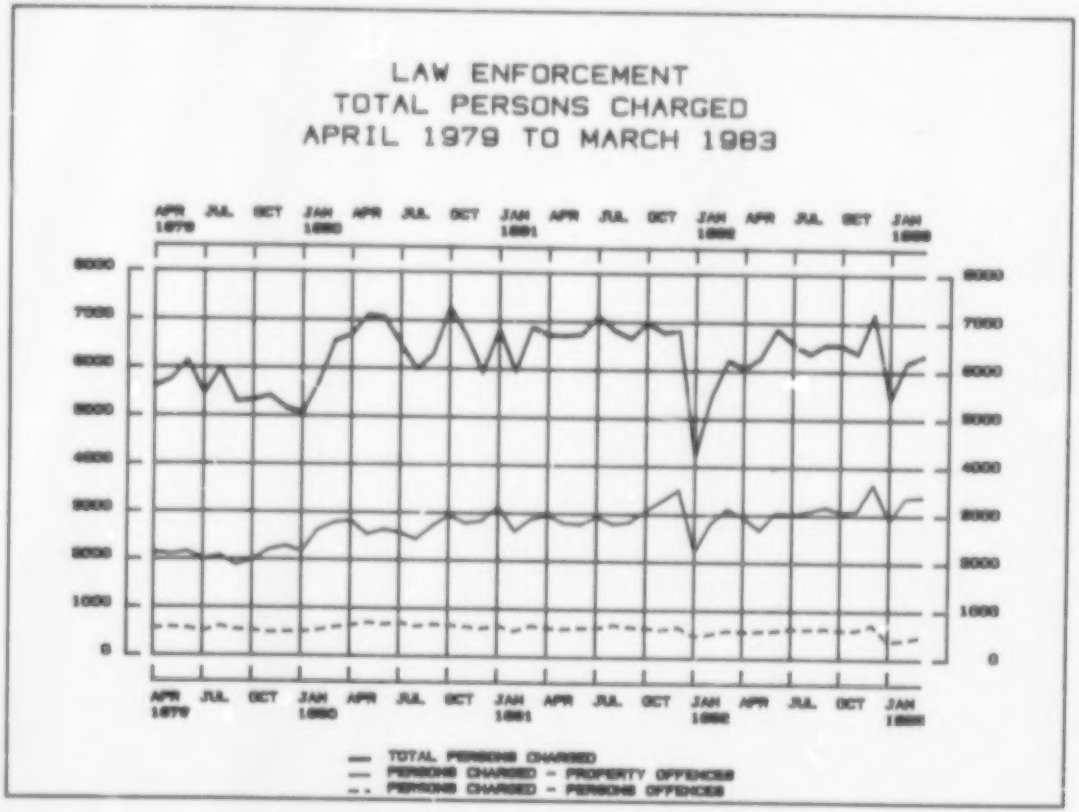
MINISTRY OF ATTORNEY GENERAL
ORGANIZATION CHART

NOTE: This symbol indicates administrative reporting relationship only.

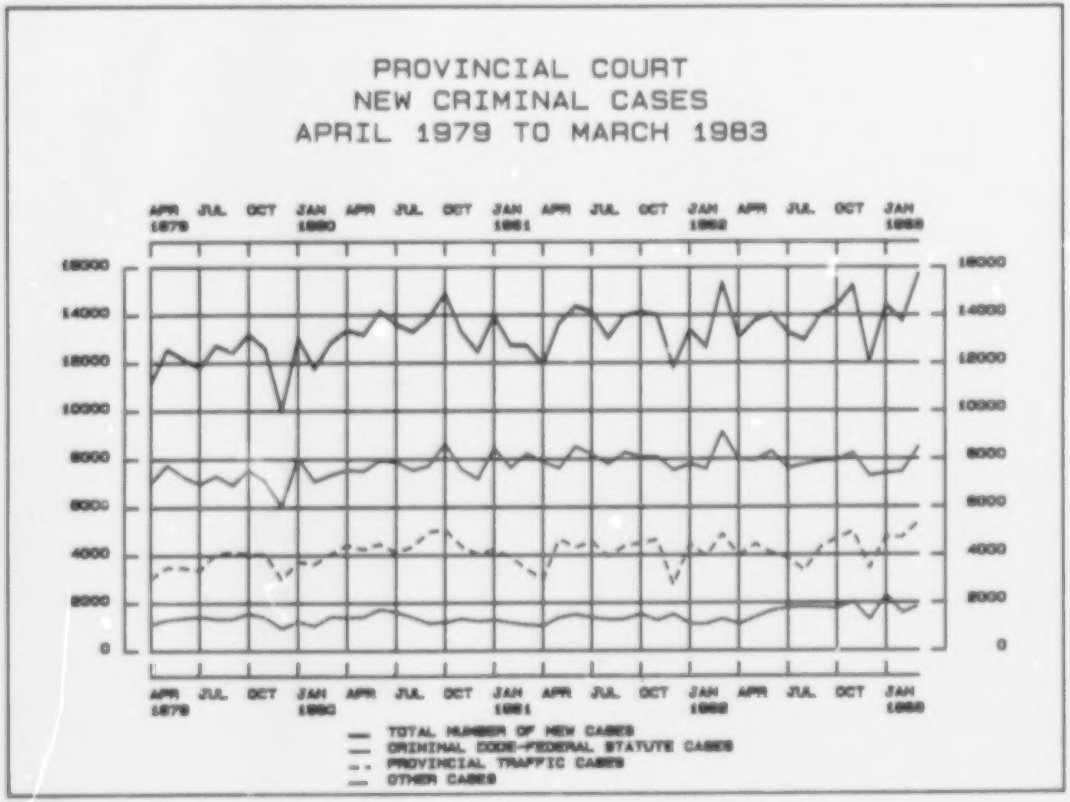




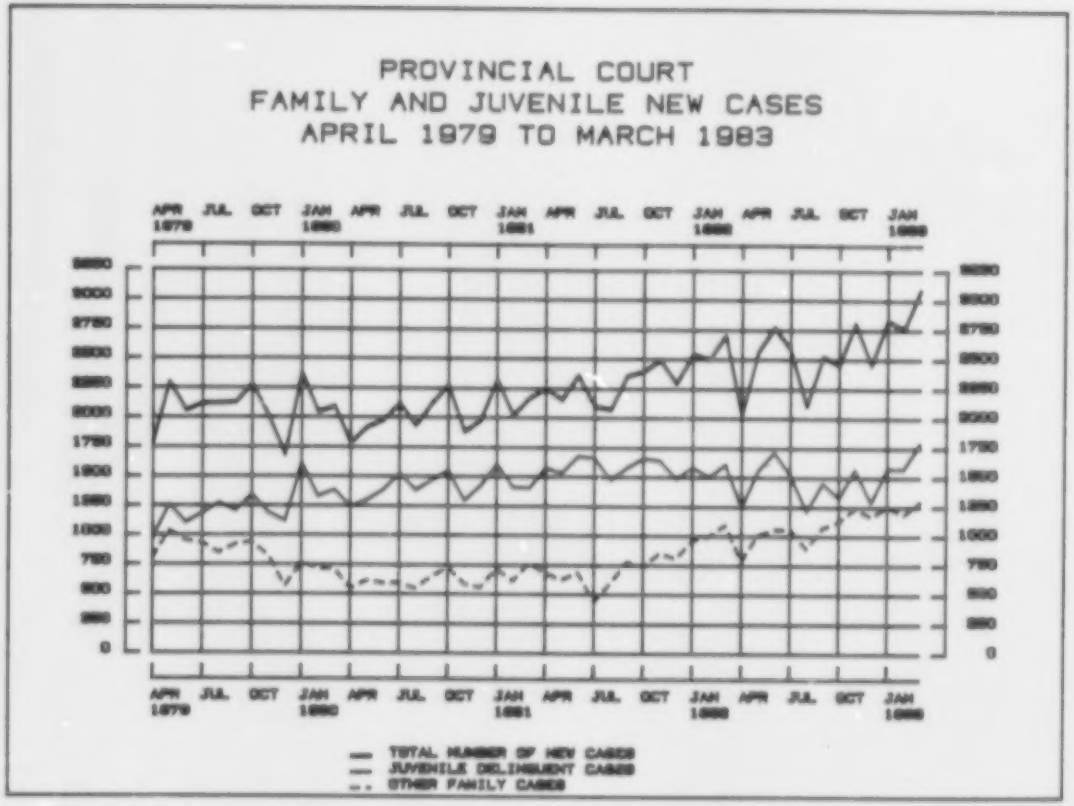
This graph records the total number of offences for the province as a whole, and has one sub-category showing the number of Criminal Code offences only. The graph shows a seasonal pattern and indicates that January is traditionally a low period and the summer months are periods of high activity. The early part of fiscal year 82/83 is unusual in that offences rose very steeply in January and fell off dramatically in the subsequent months. The total volume of offences increased by 8.6% in 82/83, compared to the previous fiscal year which recorded a 7% increase in offences. This percentage increase translates into a total of 447,354 offences committed during fiscal year 82/83, of which 378,910 were Criminal Code violations.



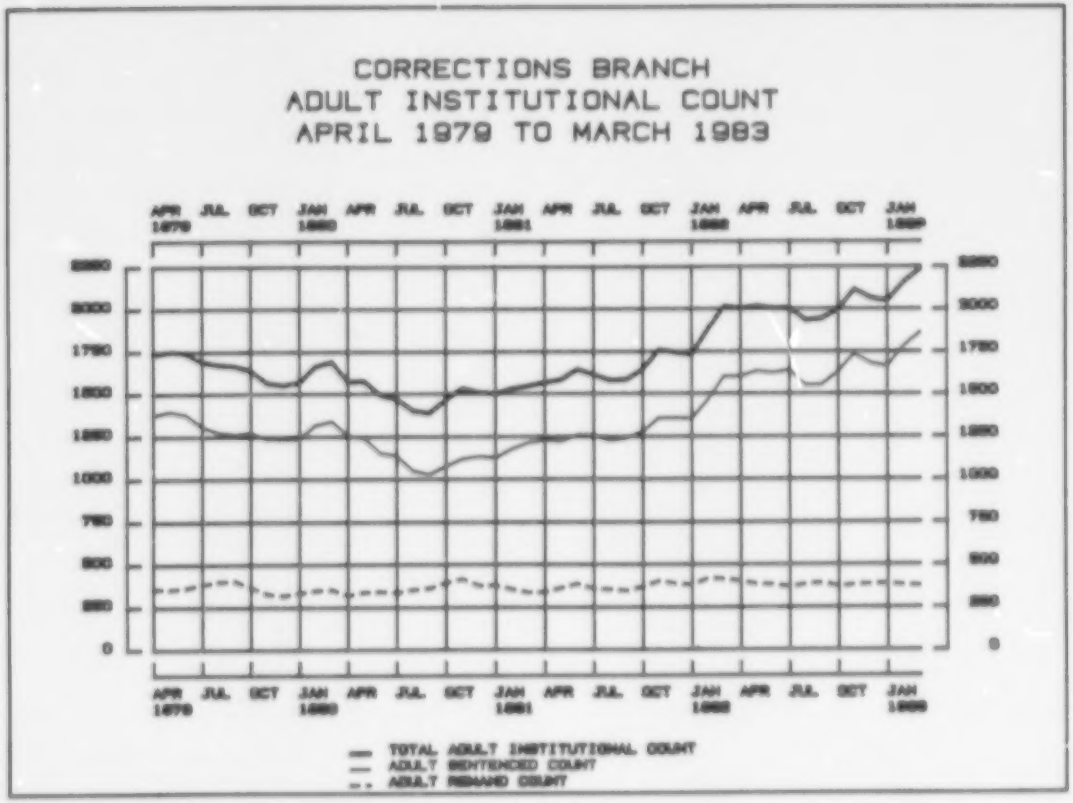
The number of persons charged in fiscal 82/83 declined by 5.6%. A total of 73,836 persons were charged with offences in the 83/83 fiscal year. This figure excludes those charged with minor traffic violations. The number of persons charged for offences against persons declined by over 5% to 6,856, compared to 7,233 in the 81/82 fiscal year. The number of persons charged for property offences increased by less than 1%, bringing the total to 35,404, compared to 35,250 in fiscal year 81/82.



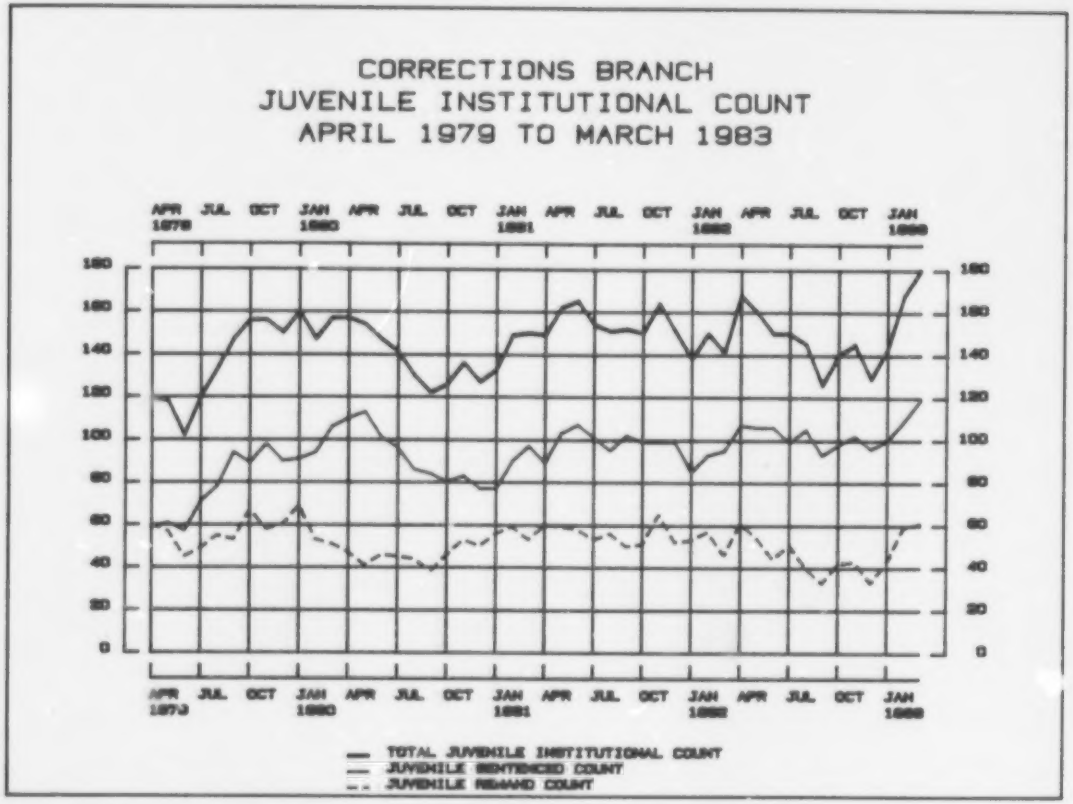
This graph records the total number of new criminal cases coming to the attention of the provincial court. The total volume for fiscal year 82/83 is 166,705. In yearly volume, this represents a 2.7% increase over the previous fiscal year.



This graph records the volume of new cases coming to the attention of the family and juvenile court. The fiscal year volume for 82/83 was 31,359, an increase of 9.3% over the previous fiscal year. Of this total, 17,826 were for juvenile delinquent cases. The juvenile delinquent sub-category showed a decrease of 6% over the previous fiscal year. This graph illustrates that the rising number of new cases is due entirely to the dramatic increase in family law cases. This category of cases rose by 39.3% over the 81/82 fiscal year. There was a total of 13,533 family law cases in 82/83, compared to 9,714 in 81/82.



This graph records the total number of people held in adult institutions. For the 82/83 fiscal year, there was a 20.6% increase in the monthly average count, compared to the previous fiscal year. On the average for the fiscal year 82/83, there were 2,043 persons in jail every month. Of this total, approximately 1,661 were there because of sentence and 382 were held on remand. In the two sub-groups, sentence count increased by 26% over the previous fiscal year while the remand count showed a decrease of 1.6%



This graph records the total number of juveniles held in juvenile institutions. The average monthly juvenile count showed a decrease of 1.3% over the previous fiscal year. On the average, there were 150 juveniles in British Columbia institutions every month and, of this total, 103 were there on sentence status and 47 on remand status. For the two sub-categories, the average sentence count showed a 6.2% increase while the average remand count showed a decrease of 14.5% from the previous fiscal year. Although the total average count has declined slightly, the most recent data indicates a steep rise in juvenile containment.

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Please note:
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Assistant Deputy Attorney General, Policy Planning Branch
Mr. Robert D. Adamson
Assistant Deputy Minister, Police Services Branch
Mr. Robin Bourne
Assistant Deputy Minister, Support Services Branch
Mr. Frank A. Rhodes

INFORMATION SERVICES DIVISION
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CORRECTIONS BRANCH

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Regional Director
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REGION 4
Regional Director
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REGION 5
Regional Director
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COURT SERVICES BRANCH

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE BRANCH

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Civil Law Division
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Constitutional and
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Public Trustee
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* Effective fiscal 1983/84, the title becomes Legal Services Branch

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CounterAttack/Preventive Policing Division
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Coordinated Law Enforcement Unit (CLEU)
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Tel: 387-1891

Land Title Office
Director
Mr. J. P. Malcolm McAvity
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BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

B.C. Board of Parole
Chairman
Mr. John Konrad
203, 10334 - 152nd A Street
Surrey, B.C.
V3R 7P6 Tel: 581-4414

B.C. Coroner's Service
Chief Coroner
Mr. R. W. Galbraith
245 East Columbia Street
New Westminster, B.C.
V3L 3W4 Tel: 521-6601

B.C. Police Commission
Chairman
Mr. Malcolm Matheson
1550, 409 Granville Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V6C 1P2 Tel: 668-2385

B.C. Racing Commission
Chairman
Mr. R. Bruce Harvey
Commissioner Secretary
Mr. Robert E. Collis
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V5G 1H1 Tel: 438-6555

Law Reform Commission
Chairman
Hon. Mr. Justice
J. S. Aikins
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Legal Services Society
Executive Director
Mr. Stephen Owen
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Office of the Fire Commissioner
Fire Commissioner
Mr. Gordon R. Anderson
2780 East Broadway Street
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Order-In-Council Patients Review Board
Chairman
Mr. Neil A. McDiarmid, Q.C.
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Native Indian Programs
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